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THE Shadow STRIKES!
CONTINUING THE EPIC TEAM-UP!
DOUBLE DANGER STORIES™
The CONFLAGRATION MAN
a four-part novel by
JONES · BARR · WHIGHAM · BARRETO
The Shadow and Doc Savage™
TOGETHER
FOR THE FIRST TIME ANYWHERE!

FOCUS

—IN MEMORIAM—

Sol Harrison probably wouldn't have approved of the comic you're reading. He'd have found a lettering correction that could have been done better, or a color guide that could have been more appealing, or maybe a flaw in the color separations. And he would have found a way to fix the problem, and ship the issue on time if it was humanly possible, because he didn't approve of missing a deadline, either. His watchful eye and steady hand over four decades were the basis of which DC built its reputation for printing and production excellence, and when he passed away on November 19th at the age of 71, we lost an important link in our history.

Sol joined the comics industry as it began, working on the color separations for FAMOUS FUNNIES, the very first comic, at his first job. He went on to work on the early DC titles as separator, back when no colorists existed to produce guides for the separators to work from. He moved inside the company in 1941 as the Art Director of All-American Comics (one of our predecessor companies), and became the Production Manager of DC when the DC and All-American titles became one line a few years later . . . a title he only surrendered to his lifelong friend and collaborator Jack Adler three decades later. In the meantime, Sol colored about a decade of Golden Age DC covers, created the first in-house color separation unit at a comics publisher, and established a standard for the reproduction of comics artwork that was unequalled in this country until the first comics moved to offset presses in 1982.

When Sol surrendered his production portfolio, it was to become Vice President-Operations for DC (adding responsibilities for licensing and quality control), and finally to serve as DC's President from 1976 until his retirement at the end of 1980. It was during this period that he became the first comics executive to agree to sell direct to the specialty market, enabling Phil Seuling to open up the direct sales industry and change the face of comics publishing.

But if asked, Sol probably would have given a different answer for what his major contribution to the field was . . . and his greatest source of satisfaction. He would have pointed to his work helping people reach their potential. Whether it was working with young artists like Joe Kubert in the '40s to the creation of a "Junior Bullpen" to develop new talents like Pat Broderick in the '70s, or his part in founding the New York Association for Brain Injured Children and the camp they ultimately named after him, he took great pride in watching young people grow and flourish. Even in retirement, he worked with disadvantaged high school students to help them discover their artistic potential and find joy in expressing it. That was a joy Sol understood well, because he had finally found time in his later years to concentrate on his own artwork, and became a respected fine artist as a watercolorist after his long career in the commercial arts.

Between all these professional accomplishments, Sol enjoyed 51 years of marriage and the love of three children and an innumerable tribe of grandchildren and extended family.

And his professional friends and family? Well, as long as comics are printed on paper, it's likely that someone will be measured against a standard Sol set, and well into the next century there'll still be plenty of us around to point that out.

—Paul Levitz

Executive Vice President & Publisher Paul Levitz's second assignment for DC was writing a series of predecessor pages to FOCUS entitled BEHIND THE SCENES, an assignment given him by Sol Harrison in 1973.

DC LIST

THIS WEEK

THE JOKER WATCH
A "Swatch" style black watch featuring an original full-color painting of the Joker by Brian Bolland. ▶

ACTION COMICS 650
Cabbies reminisce as Draaga comes to Earth for a rematch—featuring art by Ordway, Pérez, Swan, Gammill, and Jurgens! ●

THE QUESTION 35
Priorities are decided as Myra, Vic, and Hub City come to terms with their future . . . and what they need not just to survive . . . but to live! ◆▶▲

THE SHADOW STRIKES! 5
The Shadow and Doc Savage race to prevent explosive destruction in the heart of Manhattan. ■▶

ADVANCED DUNGEONS & DRAGONS 15
Who will Vajra trust: her old thieving buddy Conner, or fellow former slave Salabak? ■▶

DR. FATE 14
When Linda refuses to become Dr. Fate, Kent and Petey must face the evil sorcerer Wotan . . . alone. ■▶

LEGENDS OF THE DARK KNIGHT 4
Using his detective skills, Batman begins trailing the madman who has been terrorizing Gotham—and it leads to Wayne Manor where Alfred's life hangs in the balance. ◆▶

NEW GODS 13
It's back to Earth for the New Gods as Lightray and Eve Donner explore their relationship and Orion discovers Darkseid's latest scheme. ■▶

THE PHANTOM 12
As preparations for his wedding begin, The Phantom is framed for the murder of Banghalla's president. ■▶

GREEN ARROW 29
Oliver Queen travels to Alaska, discovering the ecological disasters created by man . . . and the power and greed behind them. ■▶▲

CAPTAIN ATOM 38
Red Tornado is looking for his lost humanity . . . and he has a score to settle with Captain Atom. ●▶

JUSTICE LEAGUE EUROPE 11
When Metamorpho decides to go see his baby, the League sends along a "protective" escort—Guy Gardner! ●

SUICIDE SQUAD 38
The Bronze Tiger is called to explain his actions to Sarge Steel and is driven to the edge of his sanity as a result. ●▶

LEGEND

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- ◫ Collected Edition
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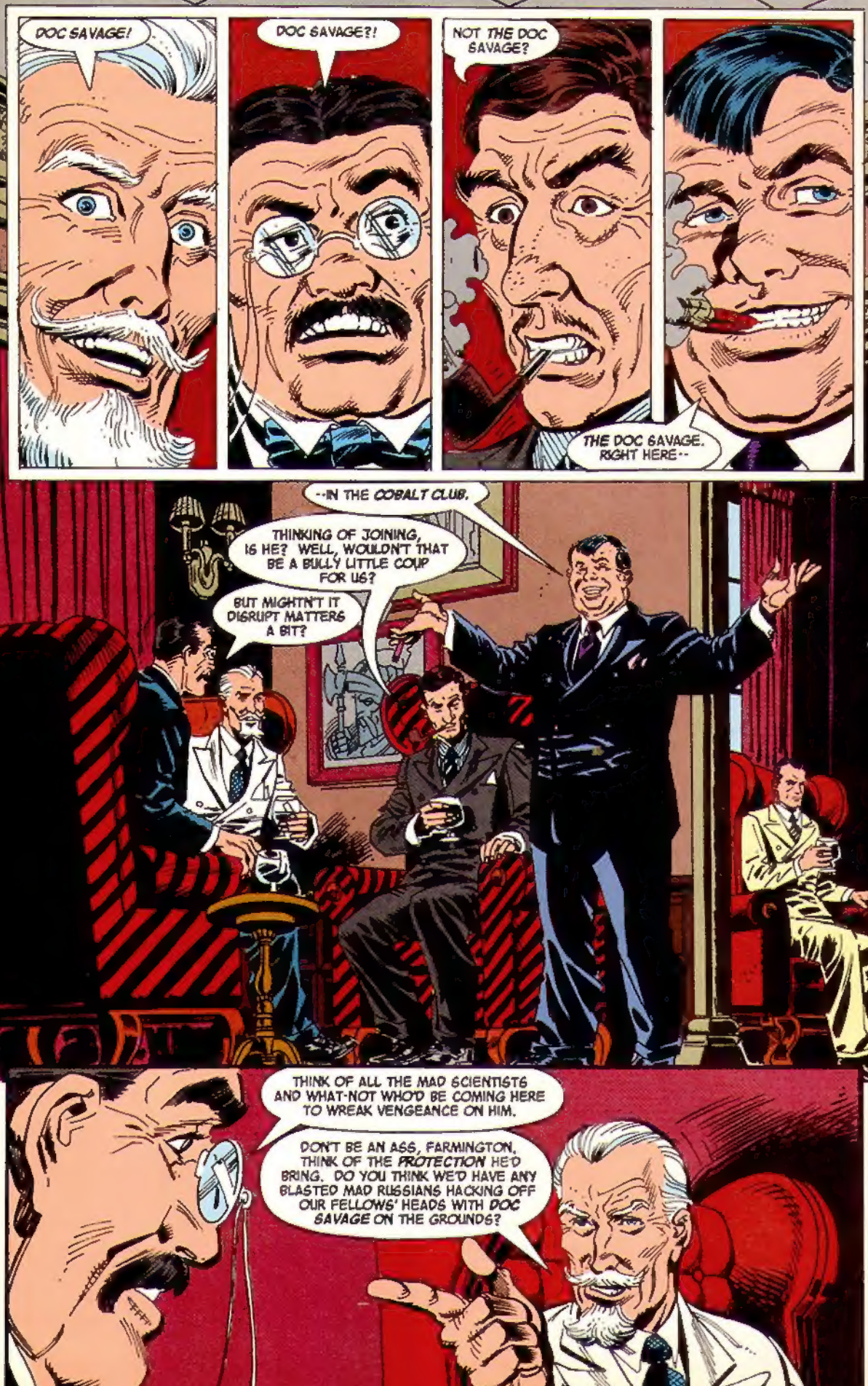
DOC SAVAGE!
DOC SAVAGE?!
NOT THE DOC SAVAGE?
THE DOC SAVAGE. RIGHT HERE--
--IN THE COBALT CLUB.
THINKING OF JOINING, IS HE? WELL, WOULDN'T THAT BE A BULLY LITTLE COUP FOR US?
BUT MIGHTN'T IT DISRUPT MATTERS A BIT?
THINK OF ALL THE MAD SCIENTISTS AND WHAT-NOT WHO'D BE COMING HERE TO WREAK VENGEANCE ON HIM.
DON'T BE AN ASS, FARMINGTON, THINK OF THE PROTECTION HE'D BRING. DO YOU THINK WE'D HAVE ANY BLASTED MAD RUSSIANS HACKING OFF OUR FELLOWS' HEADS WITH DOC SAVAGE ON THE GROUNDS?

WHAT DO YOU THINK, CRANSTON? YOU SEEM UNIMPRESSED BY IT ALL.
I CAN'T IMAGINE WHAT IT WOULD BE LIKE TO HAVE A...CRIME-FIGHTER IN THE CLUB.
I WOULD LIKE TO MEET THIS CLARK SAVAGE, JR., THOUGH.

OLD WESTON'S SHOWING HIM THE SPREAD. HE'LL BE ALONG ANY--

GOOD AFTERNOON, GENTLEMEN. DON'T LET ME INTERRUPT YOUR CONVERSATION.
I JUST WANTED TO TAKE A LOOK AT YOUR CLUB AND--

YOU MUST BE DOCTOR SAVAGE.
MY NAME IS LAMONT CRANSTON. I'M VERY PLEASED YOU'VE CHOSEN TO VISIT OUR CLUB.

THE BIG BOOM

THE CONFLAGRATION MAN, PART 3

GERARD JONES WRITER	MIKE W. BARR CO-PLOTTER	ROD WHIGHAM BREAKDOWNS	EDUARDO BARRETO FINISHER
DAVID CODY WEISS LETTERER	ANTHONY TOLLIN COLORIST	BRIAN AUGUSTYN EDITOR	JON PETERSON CONSULTING EDITOR

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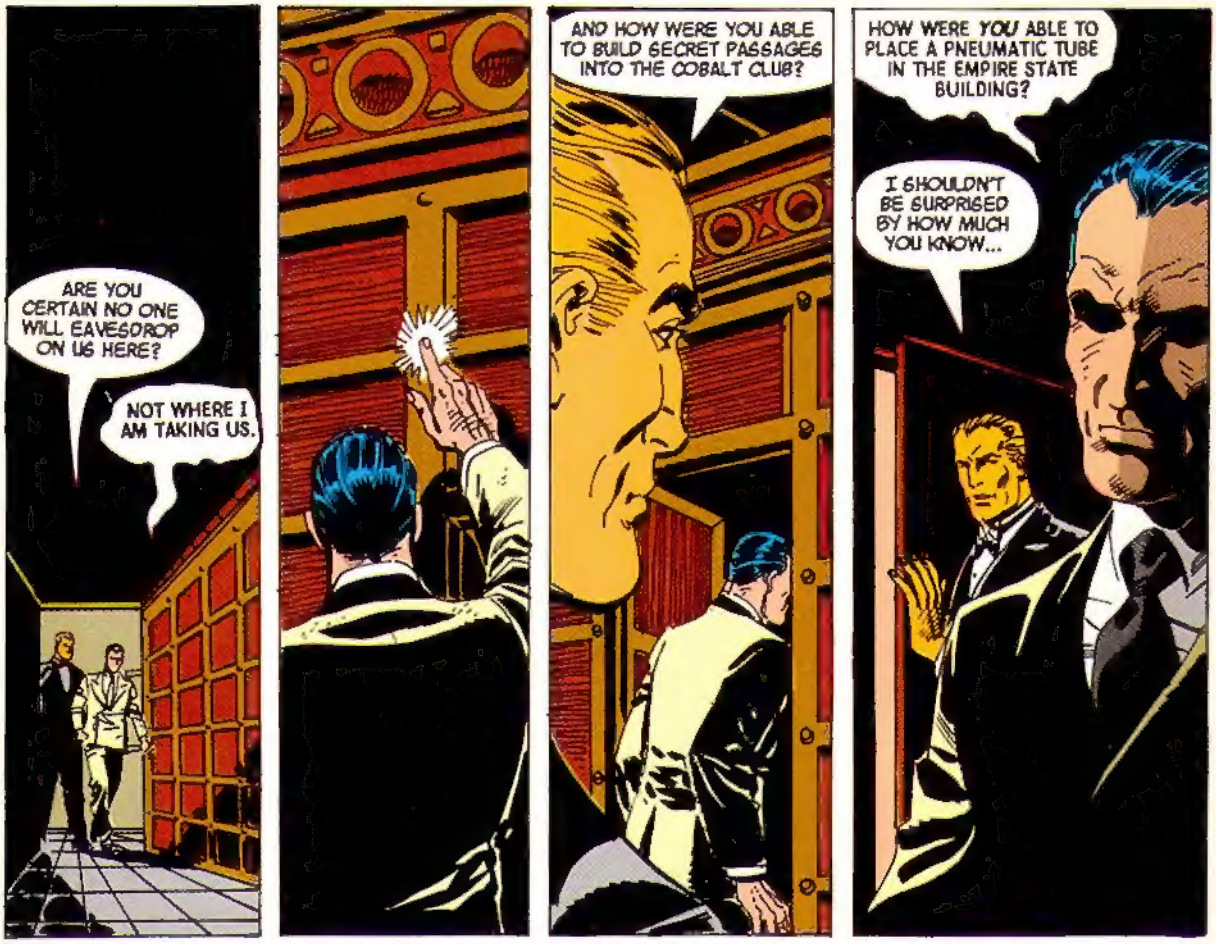
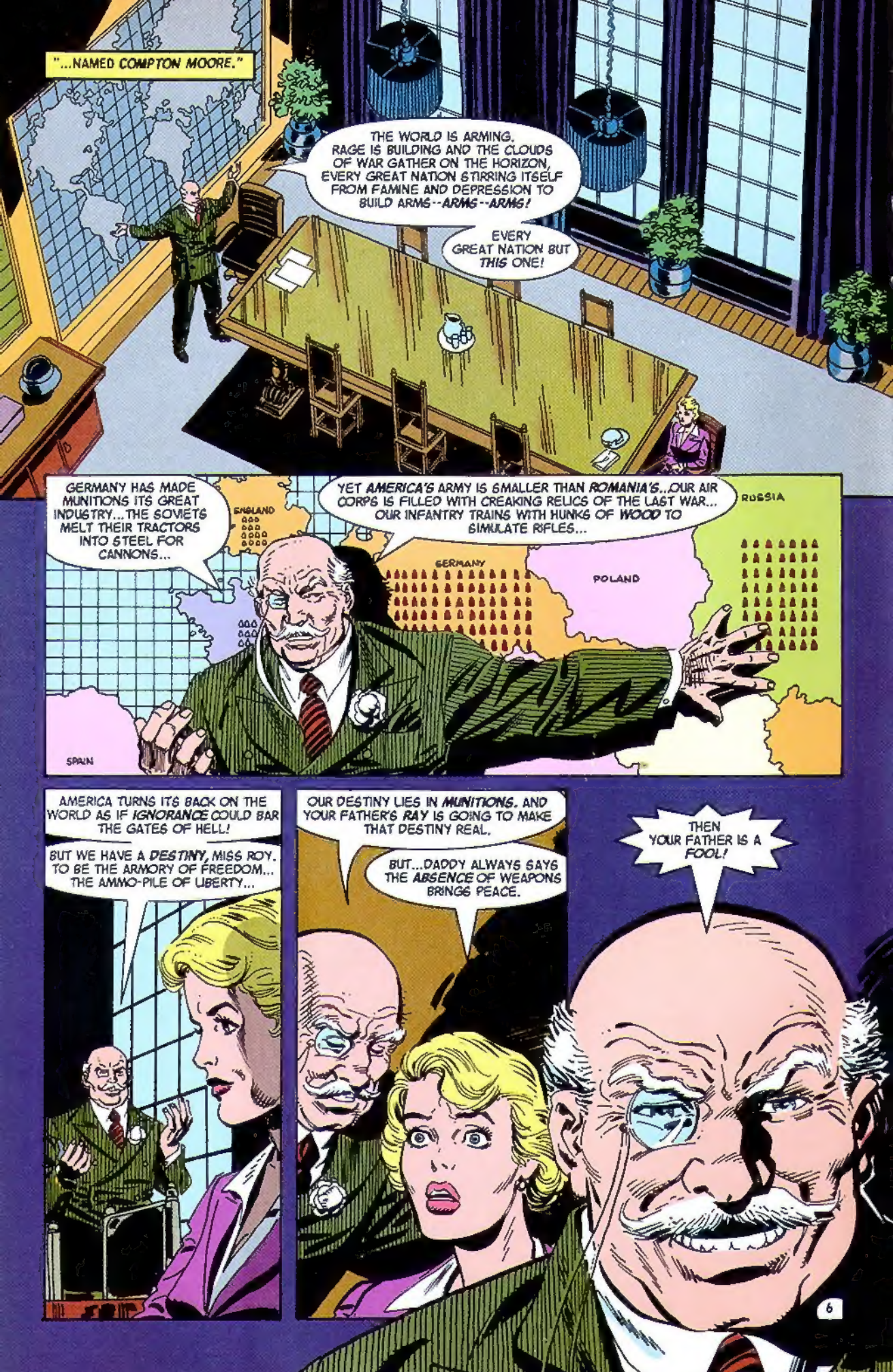
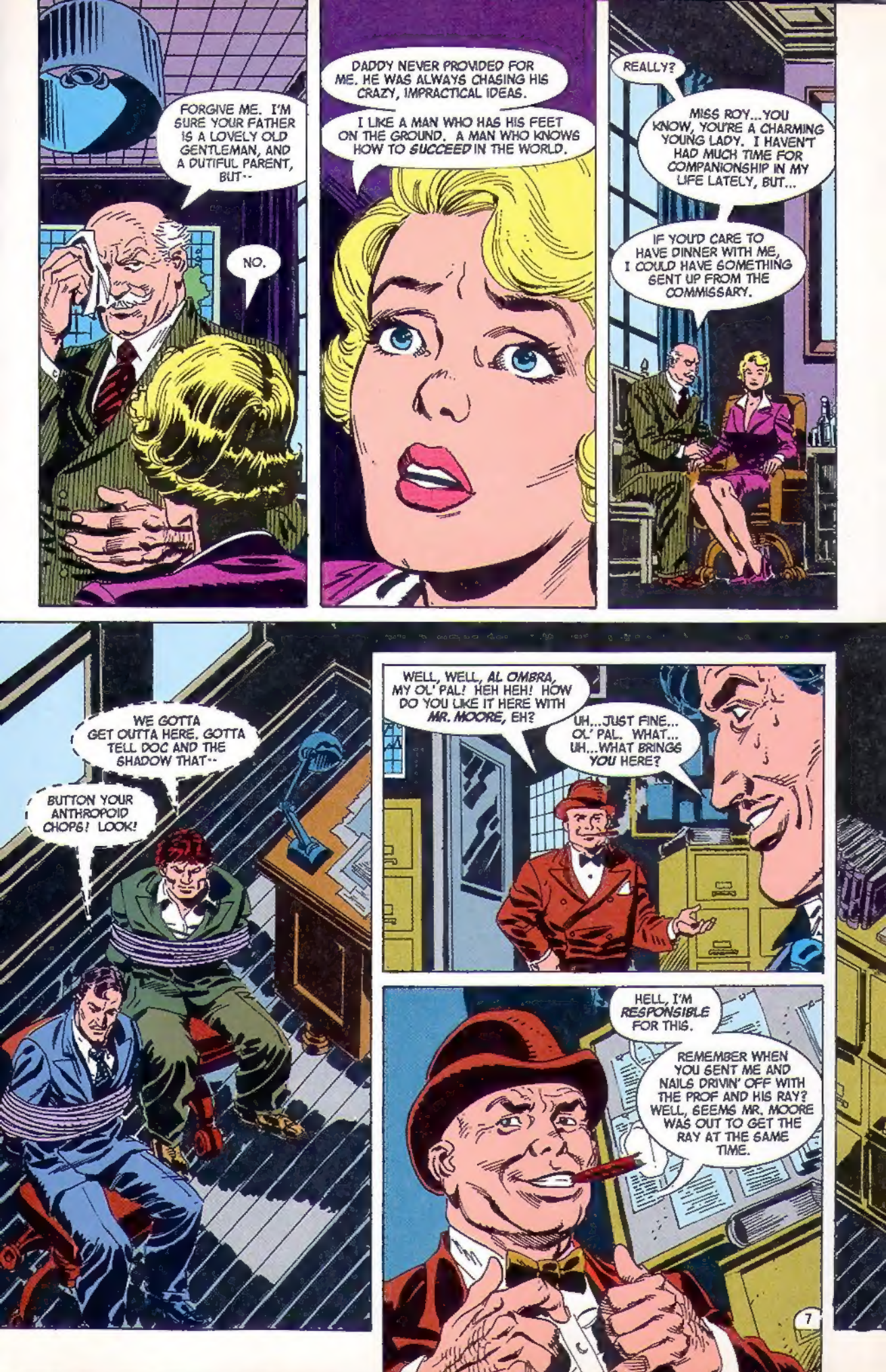
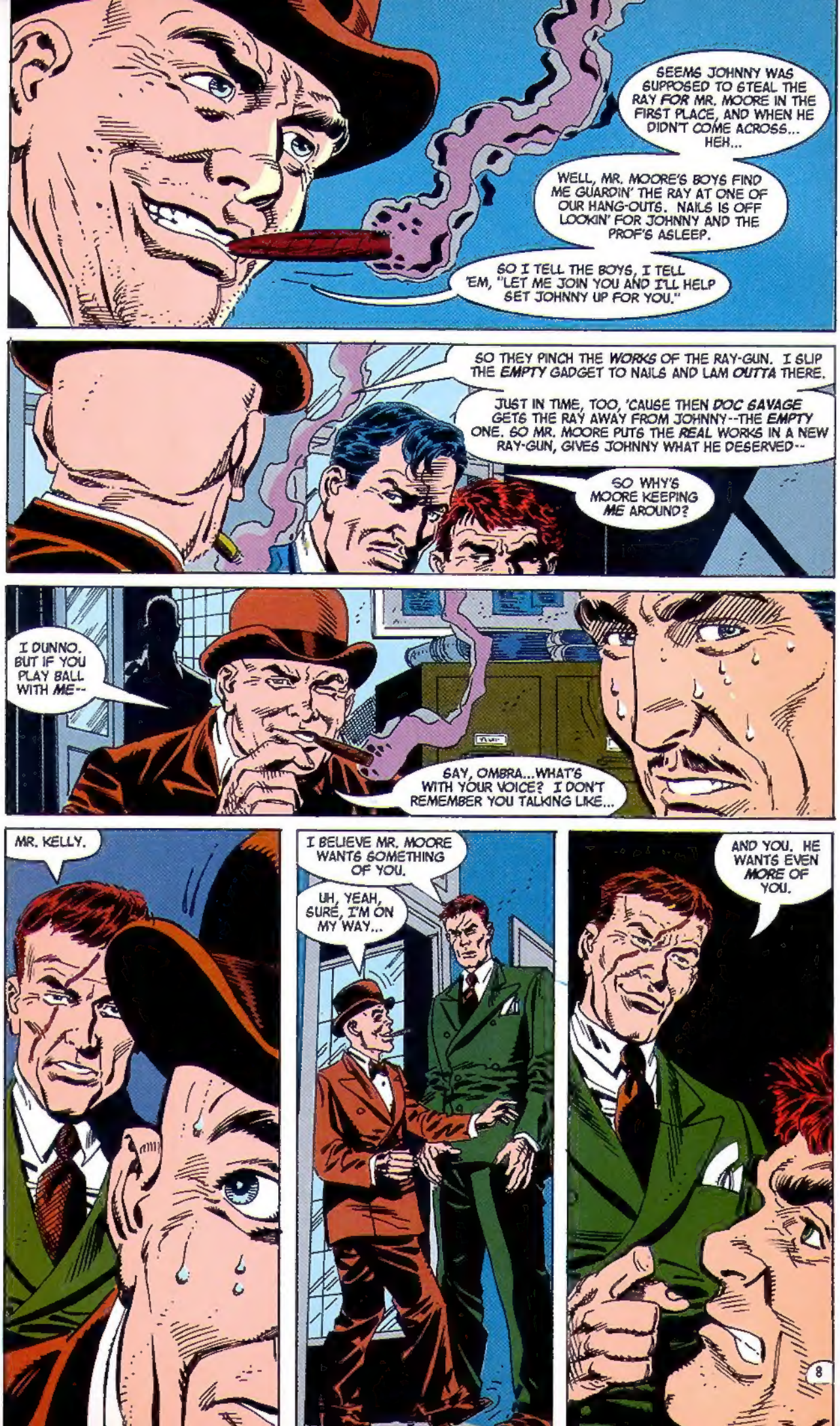

ARE YOU CERTAIN NO ONE WILL EAVESDROP ON US HERE?
NOT WHERE I AM TAKING US.
AND HOW WERE YOU ABLE TO BUILD SECRET PASSAGES INTO THE COBALT CLUB?
HOW WERE YOU ABLE TO PLACE A PNEUMATIC TUBE IN THE EMPIRE STATE BUILDING?
I SHOULDN'T BE SURPRISED BY HOW MUCH YOU KNOW...

...NOT AFTER YOU LEFT ME THE ANCIENT ALCHEMICAL SIGIL FOR COBALT AS A CLUE TO OUR NEXT MEETING PLACE.
I KNEW THAT ONLY CLARK SAVAGE, JR. COULD READ SUCH A SIGN, AND KNOW WHERE IT POINTED.
JUST AS YOU KNEW THAT ONLY I WOULD RECOGNIZE THE SHADOW IN LAMONT CRANSTON.
YOU RECOGNIZED ME BECAUSE I WISHED IT SO. A SUBTLE ALTERATION OF FACIAL MUSCLES WHILE YOU LOOKED AT ME, AND--

NO, NO. I KNOW YOU'RE A MASTER OF DISGUISE, BUT NO MATTER WHAT YOU DID, I'D HAVE RECOGNIZED YOUR EYES.
BE THAT AS IT MAY...
JOHNNY MORAN MADE A CALL BEFORE HE WAS MURDERED. I LISTENED TO HIM DIAL--
AND DISCOVERED THE NUMBER BY MENTALLY TIMING THE REVOLUTIONS OF THE DIAL, EH?
ALWAYS A GOOD TRICK. IT'S THE BEST THING ABOUT THESE DIAL PHONES.
YES.
MY COMMUNICATIONS MAN TRACED THE NUMBER. WITH IT WE CAN FIND THE MAN BEHIND MORAN...
...AND THE RAY THAT DETONATES GUNPOWDER.
WE NEEDN'T WORRY ANY LONGER ON THAT SCORE. I'VE CONFISCATED THE RAY.
THEN I FEAR YOU HAVE CONFISCATED A COUNTERFEIT..
...BECAUSE I SAW THE RAY USED AGAINST JOHNNY MORAN AFTER YOU FREED THE PROFESSOR...
...USED BY THE LACKEYS OF A NEW JERSEY MUNITIONS MAKER..
5

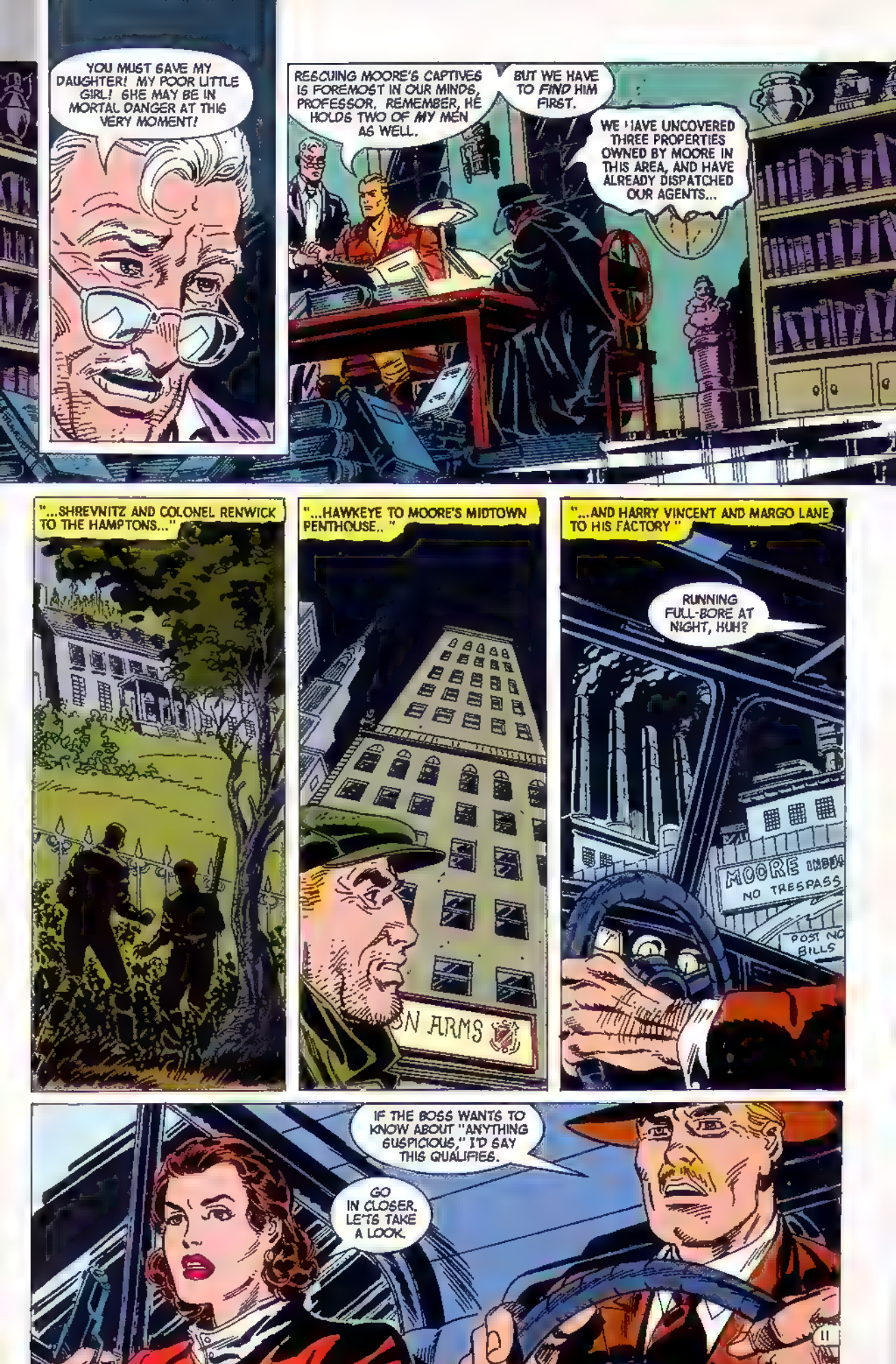

"...NAMED COMPTON MOORE."
THE WORLD IS ARMING. RAGE IS BUILDING AND THE CLOUDS OF WAR GATHER ON THE HORIZON, EVERY GREAT NATION STIRRING ITSELF FROM FAMINE AND DEPRESSION TO BUILD ARMS--ARMS--ARMS!
EVERY GREAT NATION BUT THIS ONE!
GERMANY HAS MADE MUNITIONS ITS GREAT INDUSTRY...THE SOVIETS MELT THEIR TRACTORS INTO STEEL FOR CANNONS...
YET AMERICA'S ARMY IS SMALLER THAN ROMANIA'S...OUR AIR CORPS IS FILLED WITH CREAKING RELICS OF THE LAST WAR... OUR INFANTRY TRAINS WITH HUNKS OF WOOD TO SIMULATE RIFLES...
ENGLAND
GERMANY
POLAND
RUSSIA
SPAIN
AMERICA TURNS ITS BACK ON THE WORLD AS IF IGNORANCE COULD BAR THE GATES OF HELL!
BUT WE HAVE A DESTINY, MISS ROY. TO BE THE ARMORY OF FREEDOM... THE AMMO-PILE OF LIBERTY...
OUR DESTINY LIES IN MUNITIONS. AND YOUR FATHER'S RAY IS GOING TO MAKE THAT DESTINY REAL.
BUT...DADDY ALWAYS SAYS THE ABSENCE OF WEAPONS BRINGS PEACE.
THEN YOUR FATHER IS A FOOL!

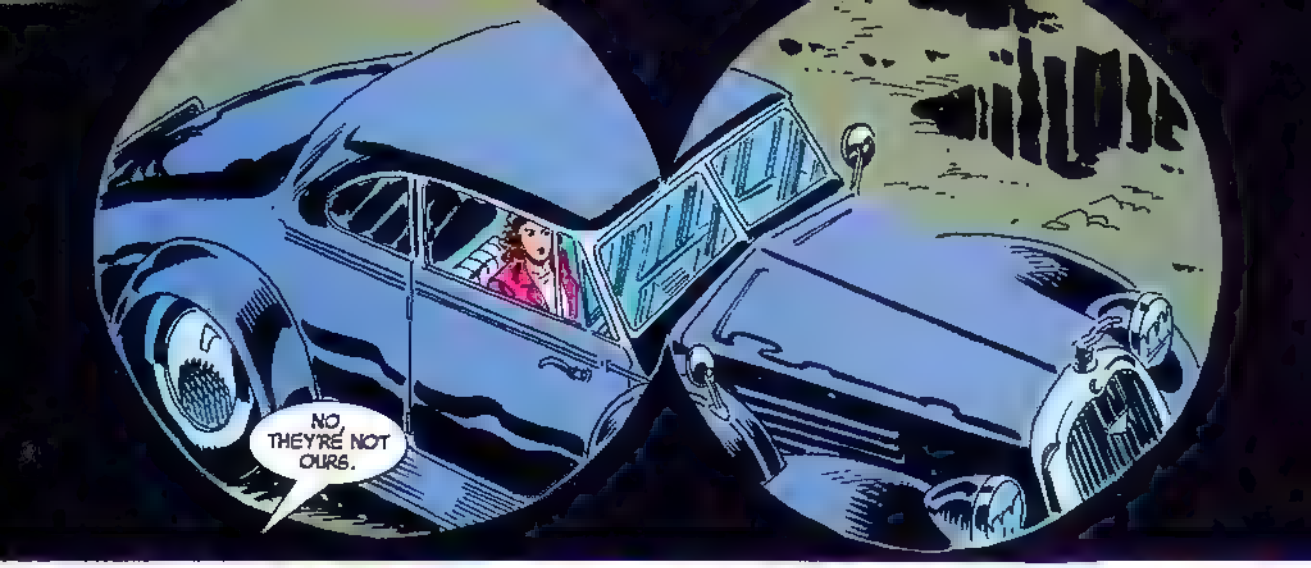

FORGIVE ME. I'M SURE YOUR FATHER IS A LOVELY OLD GENTLEMAN, AND A DUTIFUL PARENT, BUT--
NO.
DADDY NEVER PROVIDED FOR ME. HE WAS ALWAYS CHASING HIS CRAZY, IMPRACTICAL IDEAS.
I LIKE A MAN WHO HAS HIS FEET ON THE GROUND. A MAN WHO KNOWS HOW TO *SUCCEED* IN THE WORLD.
REALLY?
MISS ROY...YOU KNOW, YOU'RE A CHARMING YOUNG LADY. I HAVEN'T HAD MUCH TIME FOR COMPANIONSHIP IN MY LIFE LATELY, BUT...
IF YOU'D CARE TO HAVE DINNER WITH ME, I COULD HAVE SOMETHING SENT UP FROM THE COMMISSARY.
WE GOTTA GET OUTTA HERE. GOTTA TELL DOC AND THE SHADOW THAT--
BUTTON YOUR ANTHROPOID CHOPS! LOOK!
WELL, WELL, *AL OMBRA*, MY OL' PAL! HEH HEH! HOW DO YOU LIKE IT HERE WITH *MR. MOORE*, EH?
UH...JUST FINE... OL' PAL. WHAT... UH...WHAT BRINGS *YOU* HERE?
HELL, I'M *RESPONSIBLE* FOR THIS.
REMEMBER WHEN YOU SENT ME AND NAILS DRIVIN' OFF WITH THE PROF AND HIS RAY? WELL, SEEMS MR. MOORE WAS OUT TO GET THE RAY AT THE SAME TIME.
7

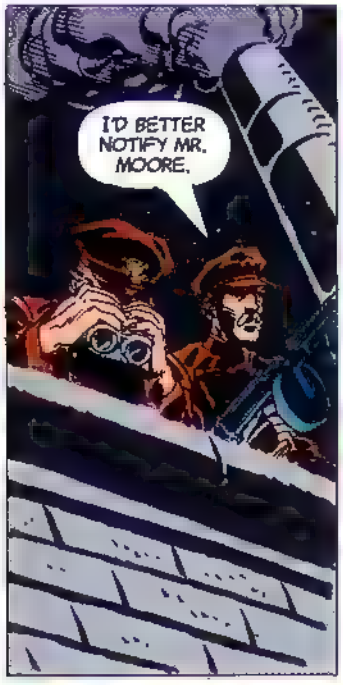

SEEMS JOHNNY WAS SUPPOSED TO STEAL THE RAY FOR MR. MOORE IN THE FIRST PLACE, AND WHEN HE DIDN'T COME ACROSS... HEH...
WELL, MR. MOORE'S BOYS FIND ME GUARDIN' THE RAY AT ONE OF OUR HANG-OUTS. NAILS IS OFF LOOKIN' FOR JOHNNY AND THE PROF'S ASLEEP.
SO I TELL THE BOYS, I TELL 'EM, "LET ME JOIN YOU AND I'LL HELP SET JOHNNY UP FOR YOU."
SO THEY PINCH THE WORKS OF THE RAY-GUN. I SLIP THE EMPTY GADGET TO NAILS AND LAM OUTTA THERE.
JUST IN TIME, TOO, 'CAUSE THEN DOC SAVAGE GETS THE RAY AWAY FROM JOHNNY--THE EMPTY ONE. SO MR. MOORE PUTS THE REAL WORKS IN A NEW RAY-GUN, GIVES JOHNNY WHAT HE DESERVED--
SO WHY'S MOORE KEEPING ME AROUND?
I DUNNO. BUT IF YOU PLAY BALL WITH ME--
SAY, OMBRA...WHAT'S WITH YOUR VOICE? I DON'T REMEMBER YOU TALKING LIKE...
MR. KELLY.
I BELIEVE MR. MOORE WANTS SOMETHING OF YOU.
UH, YEAH, SURE, I'M ON MY WAY...
AND YOU. HE WANTS EVEN MORE OF YOU.
8

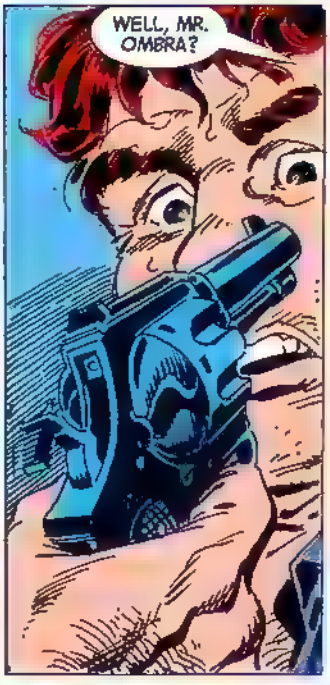
YOU KNOW WHAT IT IS, EVERYTHING YOU KNOW, EVERYTHING WE WANT TO HEAR...ABOUT DOC SAVAGE.
DOC SAVAGE... DOC SAVAGE...OH YEAH! I THINK I READ ABOUT HIM IN THE PAPERS ONCE!
I SEE
YOU CAN GUESS WHY WE'VE KEPT YOU ALIVE, CAN'T YOU, MR. OMBRA? MR. KELLY SAID YOU WERE A FIRST- RATE HIT-MAN. YOU ARE, AREN'T YOU?
UH... YEAH.
GOOD. BECAUSE I WANT YOU TO SHOOT THIS PRISONER.
NIGHT AND DAY, MISS ROY. NIGHT AND DAY.
FURNACES BLAZING NIGHT AND DAY, A MIGHTY INDUSTRY ROARING THROUGH THE DARK NIGHT OF THE DEPRESSION...
9

I WILL BE IN FULL PRODUCTION WHEN OUR MILITARY BUILD-UP FINALLY BEGINS. I WILL CONTROL THIS NATION'S ARMAMENTS INDUSTRY.
BUT NOTHING WILL STIR AMERICA INTO ACTION... EXCEPT FEAR. AND I WILL PROVIDE THAT FEAR.
THAT'S THE BEAUTY OF THE RAY. I CAN DESTROY ENTIRE ARMY BASES, ENTIRE ARSENALS...AND BY DISGUISING IT AS SABOTAGE I CAN MAKE THE MILITARY THINK THAT...
BUT YOU UNDERSTAND ME.
OH, I DO! YOU'LL MAKE AMERICA THE WORLD LEADER IT WAS MEANT TO BE, WON'T YOU?
I WILL. YES.
AND...WILL YOU MAKE A LOT OF MONEY?
MORE MONEY THAN THE HUMAN MIND CAN ENCOMPASS, MISS ROY.
THEN... PLEASE...
...CALL ME VIVIAN.
10


YOU MUST SAVE MY DAUGHTER! MY POOR LITTLE GIRL! SHE MAY BE IN MORTAL DANGER AT THIS VERY MOMENT!
RESCUING MOORE'S CAPTIVES IS FOREMOST IN OUR MINDS, PROFESSOR. REMEMBER, HE HOLDS TWO OF MY MEN AS WELL.
BUT WE HAVE TO FIND HIM FIRST.
WE HAVE UNCOVERED THREE PROPERTIES OWNED BY MOORE IN THIS AREA, AND HAVE ALREADY DISPATCHED OUR AGENTS...
"...SHREVNITZ AND COLONEL RENWICK TO THE HAMPTONS..."
"...HAWKEYE TO MOORE'S MIDTOWN PENTHOUSE.. "
N ARMS
"...AND HARRY VINCENT AND MARGO LANE TO HIS FACTORY "
RUNNING FULL-BORE AT NIGHT, HUH?
MOORE INDUS
NO TRESPASS
POST NO BILLS
IF THE BOSS WANTS TO KNOW ABOUT "ANYTHING SUSPICIOUS," I'D SAY THIS QUALIFIES.
GO IN CLOSER. LET'S TAKE A LOOK.

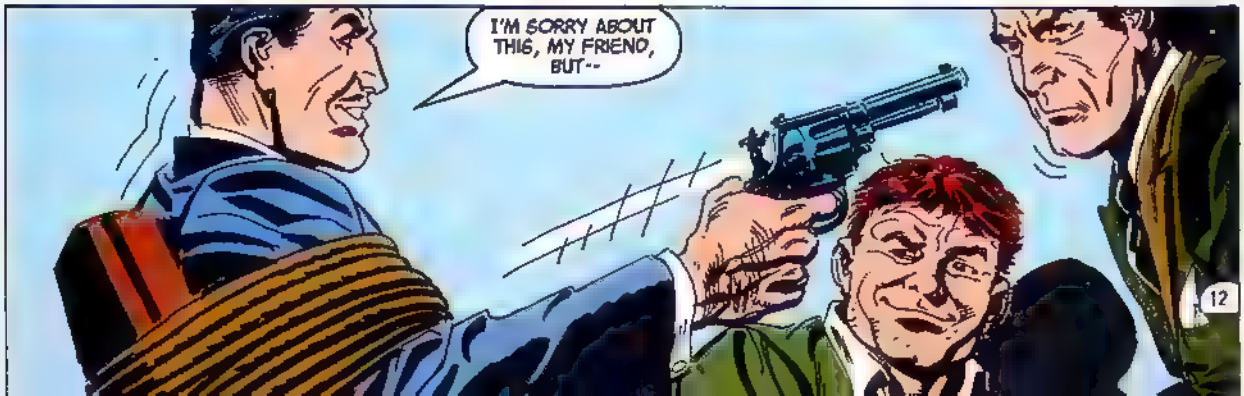

NO, THEY'RE NOT OURS.


I'D BETTER NOTIFY MR. MOORE.


WELL, MR. OMBRA?

WHAT'S WRONG, MR. OMBRA? AREN'T OUR RATES HIGH ENOUGH FOR YOU?
ALL RIGHT! DON'T KILL ME! I'LL *TALK!* I'LL *TALK!*

THEN *DO* IT--NOW! WHERE IS SAVAGE? WHAT DOES HE--


I'M SORRY ABOUT THIS, MY FRIEND, BUT--

KLIK
THANK YOU, MR. OMBRA. OR... BRIGADIER GENERAL BROOKS, ISN'T IT?
YOU'VE HELPED ME PROVE A POINT.
YOU OWE ME TWENTY DOLLARS, MR. MOORE. THEY ARE WORKING TOGETHER.
THEN OUR PROWLERS IN THE PARKING LOT MAY BE VERY OPPORTUNE, INDEED.
TURN THE CAPTIVES OVER TO MR. KELLY. AND LET'S HOPE HE STILL HASN'T LEARNED THE VALUE OF SILENCE.
GUARD-POSTS EVERYWHERE-- BUT NO SIGN THAT THEY'VE SEEN US.
PERHAPS THEY DON'T EXPECT ANY SABOTEURS TO COME DRIVING.
LET'S SEE IF WE CAN SLIP INTO THE PLANT ITSELF...
--THE WHOLE THING?!
AN' PROBLY EVERYTHING AROUND IT! KA-FLOOEY!
YOUR MR. MOORE THINKS BIG, DOESN'T HE?
MR. MOORE, HE'S GOT EVERYTHING FIGGERED. NOBODY CAN STOP HIM!
WHAT DOES HE HAVE "FIGGERED" FOR US? WHERE ARE WE GOING?

SEARCH ME, MR. MOORE JUST SAID TO GET YOU AWAY FROM THE OFFICES...
...AND OVER TO THIS SMELTING FURNACE AROUND BACK.
HEY! WATCH WHAT YOU'RE--
NOW, MONK!
BAM
BAM BAM
SHOTS! WE'D BETTER SEE--
NO!

INTO THE CAR!

IF YOU CAN RUN WITHOUT USING YOUR HANDS, MONK-- DO IT NOW!
BAM BAM

YOU GUYS CAN'T HIT ANYTHING! I'LL SHOW YOU--

WHOOPS.
MOORE
BAM

SPAK

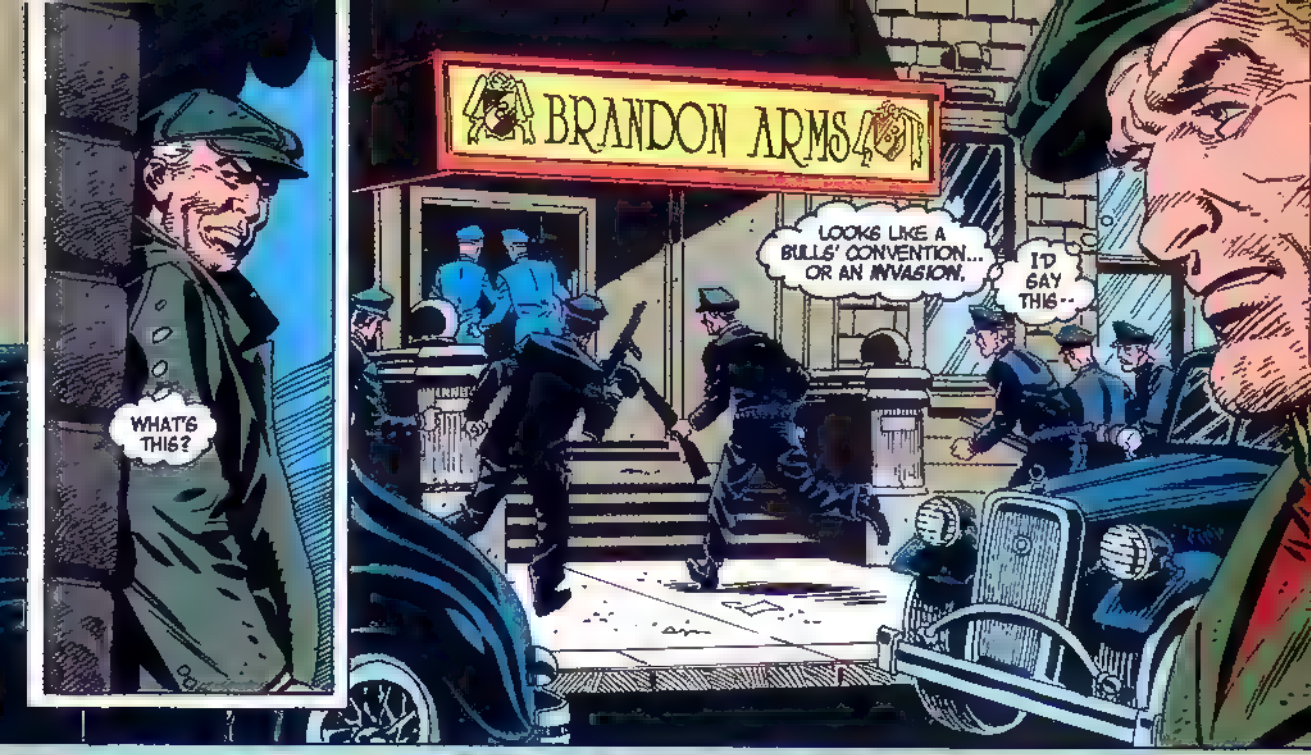
YOU BIG DUMB SON OF A--
I COULDA' POPPED ONE OF 'EM!
I KNOW, MR. KELLY...

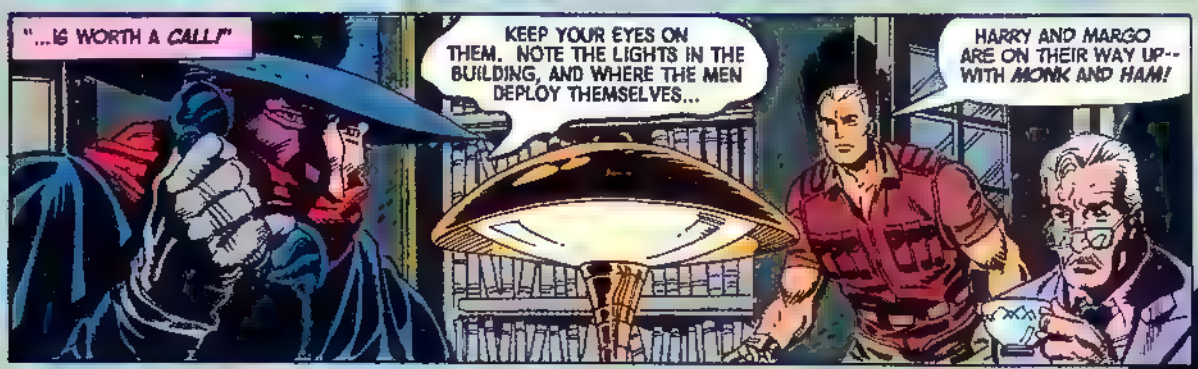
I KNOW.

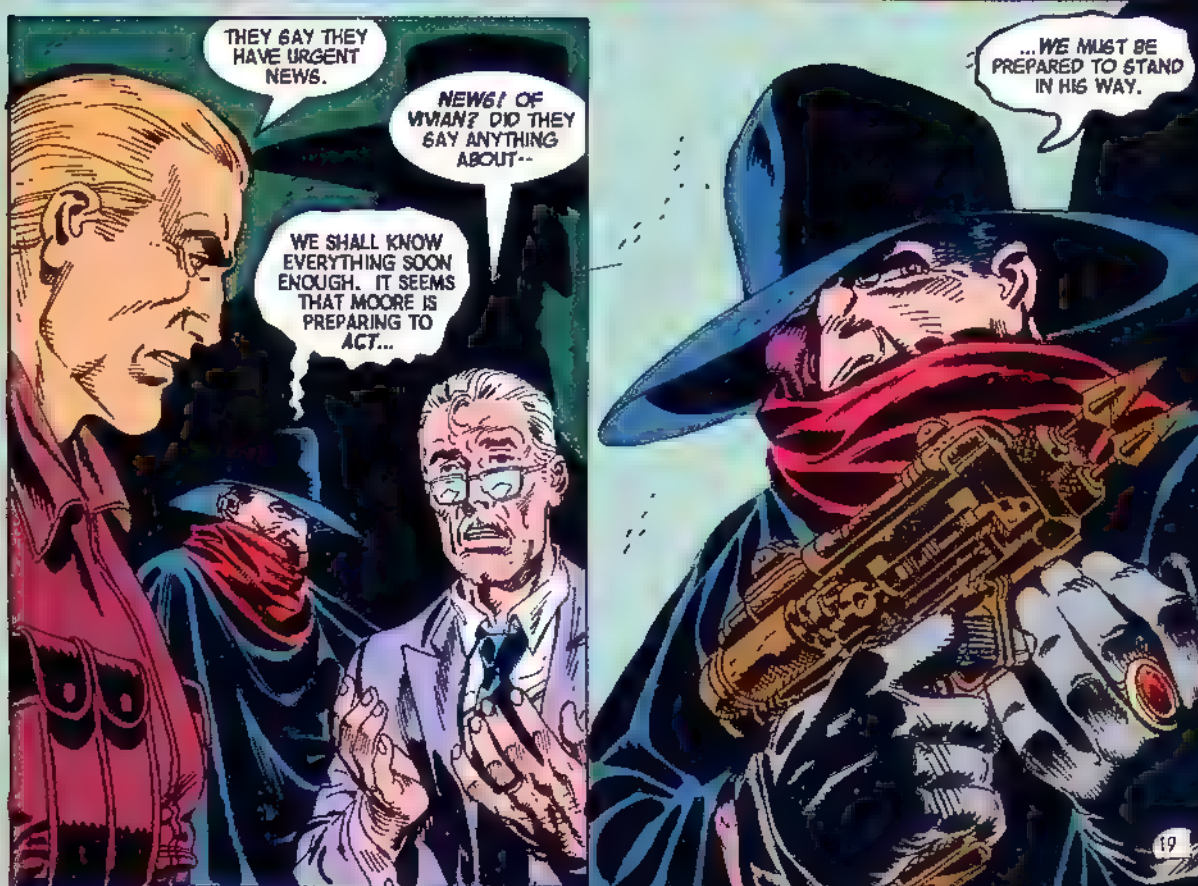
SCREEEEEEEEEEEE
BWAK
MONK! ARE YOU...
DEAD? IF I WAS, DOLL, YOU JUST BROUGHT ME BACK TO LIFE!
THEN SWING YOUR CARCASS INTO THE CAR, LAZARUS--
16

--BEFORE YOU SUFFER A WOUND THAT EVEN A WOMAN CAN'T HEAL!
RRRRRR
SCREEEE
KSSSK
THE MEN DID WELL...NO THANKS TO MR. KELLY.
WE COULDN'T VERY WELL RISK TELLING HIM THE TRUTH, COULD WE?
IN ANY CASE, ALL'S WELL THAT ENDS WELL...
...AND THIS WILL END VERY WELL.
TIME TO PUT YOUR CHARMING SELF IN ORDER, MISS ROY. WE'RE TAKING A TRIP TO MANHATTAN.

--MY LORD! IF WHAT YOU'RE SAYING IS TRUE, THE DAMAGE COULD BE ENORMOUS-- AND THE DEATHS--
" IT'S TIME TO RE-TIRE
OH, IT'S TRUE, MISS LANE. I FERRETED OUT THE INFO MYSELF!
YOU DID? YOUR DABBLINGS IN CHEMISTRY HAVE DONE SOMETHING TO YOUR BRAIN, MY GOOD MAN! IT WAS I--
OH YEAH? WHY, IF MY HANDS WEREN'T TIED BEHIND MY BACK--
YOU'D USE THEM TO SEIZE THE NEAREST TREE AND SWING AWAY FROM ME!
YOU'RE WASTING YOUR BREATH...
...I DON'T THINK MARGO IS IMPRESSED WITH YOUR SCHOOLBOY JOUSTING-- ARE YOU, MARGO?
ME? WHY...WHY, HEAVENS NO...
HOW COULD I BE?
I'LL BET YOU'RE THANKING GOD THAT I'M STILL TIED UP, YOU SHYSTER!
ON THE CONTRARY. IF WE WERE FIGHTING PHYSICALLY INSTEAD OF VERBALLY, YOU MIGHT NOT BE SO PATHETICALLY OVERMATCHED!
YEAH, WELL, I'D LOVE TO BE HOLDING YOU OVER A MATCH, YOU BLUE-BLOODED, PINK-DRAWERED...

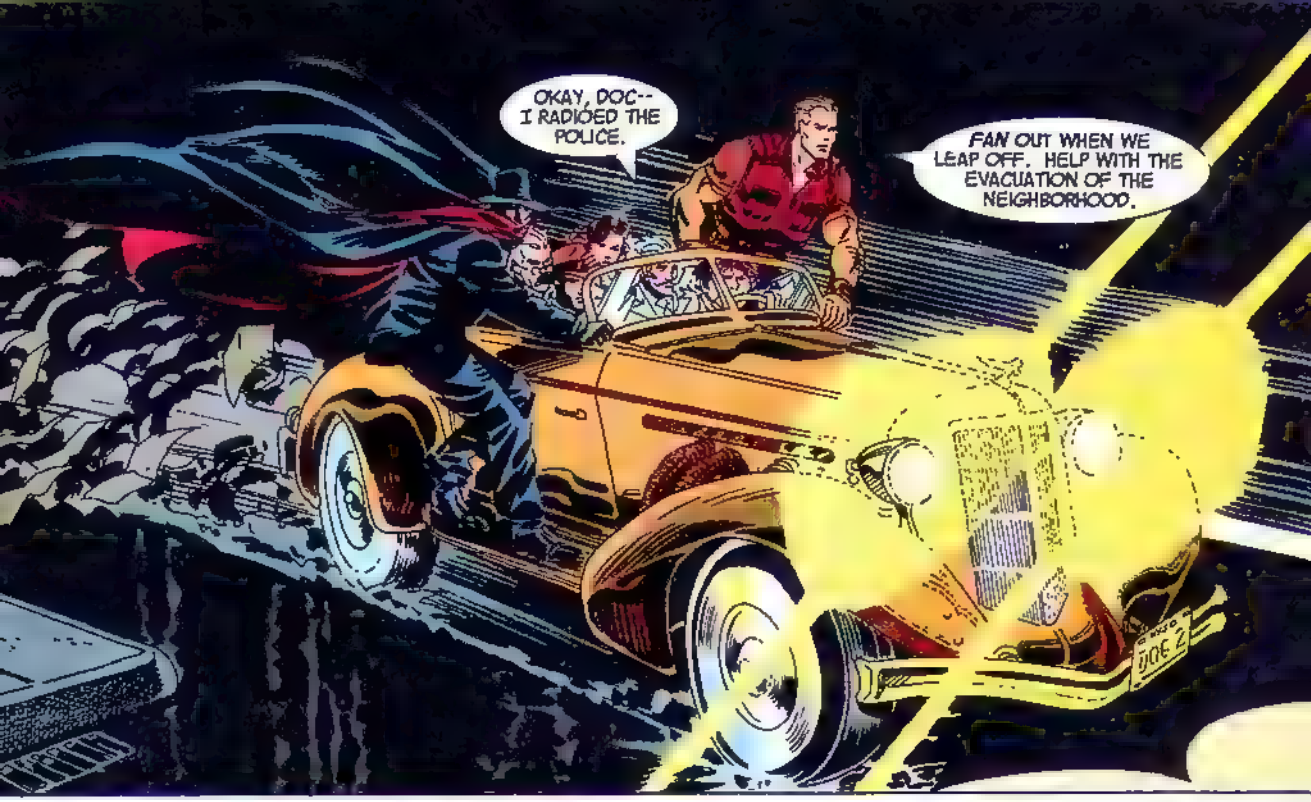

WHAT'S THIS?
BRANDON ARMS
LOOKS LIKE A BULLS' CONVENTION... OR AN INVASION.
I'D SAY THIS--


"...IS WORTH A CALL!"
KEEP YOUR EYES ON THEM. NOTE THE LIGHTS IN THE BUILDING, AND WHERE THE MEN DEPLOY THEMSELVES...
HARRY AND MARGO ARE ON THEIR WAY UP-- WITH MONK AND HAM!


THEY SAY THEY HAVE URGENT NEWS.
NEWS! OF VIVIAN? DID THEY SAY ANYTHING ABOUT--
WE SHALL KNOW EVERYTHING SOON ENOUGH. IT SEEMS THAT MOORE IS PREPARING TO ACT...
...WE MUST BE PREPARED TO STAND IN HIS WAY.

GETTING THE ROPES OFF WAS PLEASANT...BUT GETTING THIS DISGUISE OFF IS A GODSEND.
I WAS AFRAID YOU'D *FORGET*, MISS LANE, THAT I DON'T *TRULY* LOOK THE PART OF AN UNDERWORLD HIT-MAN.
BETTER A *MOB TORPEDO* THAN A SISSIFIED *MOUTHPIECE!*
AND BETTER *ANY* KIND OF HUMAN BEING THAN AN *APE IN WOLF'S* CLOTHING!
LET THEM GO AHEAD.
I DON'T LIKE THE WAY THEY STRUT AND PREEN AROUND YOU. I DON'T THINK YOU SHOULD BE EXPOSED TO THEIR TYPE.
NOW *REALLY*, HARRY! I FACED A LOT WORSE. REMEMBER RASPUTIN?
YEAH...
BUT RASPUTIN WE COULD *KILL!*
--BUT HOW DOES MOORE PLAN TO SET OFF THIS MILITARY PANIC? HOW WILL HE USE THE RAY?

TONIGHT, DOC--AT MIDNIGHT--HE'S GONNA POINT IT AT THE NATIONAL GUARD ARMORY ON PARK AND 34TH--
DESTROYING PERHAPS AN ENTIRE BLOCK OF MANHATTAN. HIS MEN WILL BREAK INTO THE ARMORY AT 11:30--AND LEAVE VIVIAN ROY TIED THERE!
MY LITTLE GIRL! NO! WHY? WHY?!
BAIT, PROF. HE'S SENDING A MESSAGE TO YOUR PLACE, TELLING YOU WHERE TO GO TO GET HER BACK--
HE HOPES TO KILL YOU IN THE BLAST, PROFESSOR... AND SO OBLITERATE THE ONE MAN WHO COULD PROVE THE EXISTENCE OF THE RAY, AND THUS UNDERMINE HIS SCHEME.
WE STILL HAVE TIME...
VERY GOOD...
DO YOU HAVE THIS STRAIGHT NOW, MR. KELLY?
OKAY. I GO HANG AROUND THE ARMORY, WHERE NOBODY CAN GLIM ME. I WAIT TILL THE SHADOW AND DOC SAVAGE GO INSIDE. THEN I PUSH THE BUTTON ON THIS DINGUS...
THEN YOU GO FOR COVER. AND WE'LL GIVE YOU PLENTY OF TIME TO GET AWAY FROM THE BLAST. YOU KNOW THAT, DON'T YOU?
OH, YES SIR! I KNOW WHO I CAN TRUST!
STAIR

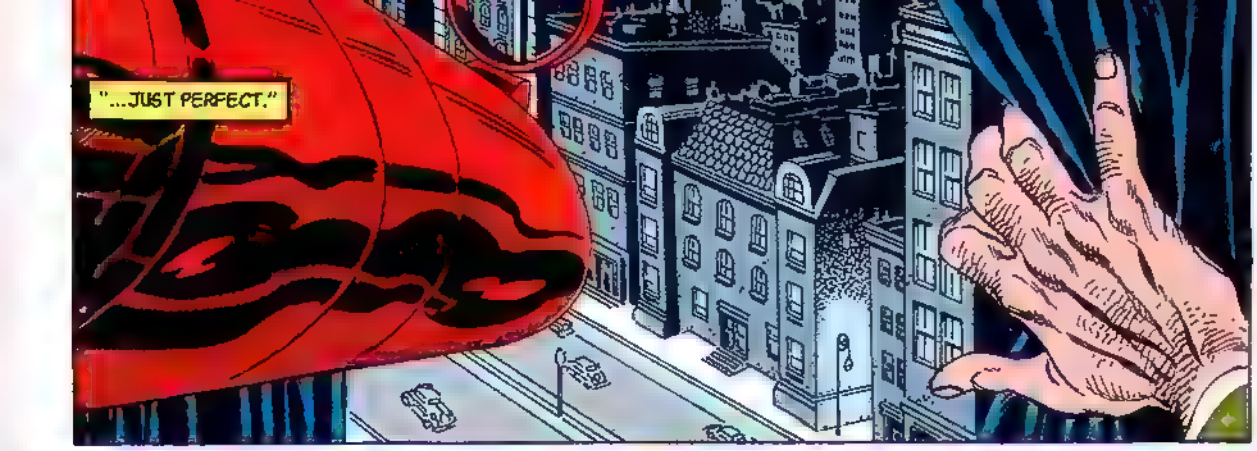

OKAY, DOC-- I RADIOED THE POLICE.
FAN OUT WHEN WE LEAP OFF. HELP WITH THE EVACUATION OF THE NEIGHBORHOOD.

DO YOU REALLY THINK THEY CAN SAVE VIVIAN?
THEY *WILL*--AND THEY'LL CAPTURE MOORE'S MEN, REVEAL HIS PLOT, AND TURN THE TABLES ON HIM. ALL BEFORE MIDNIGHT.

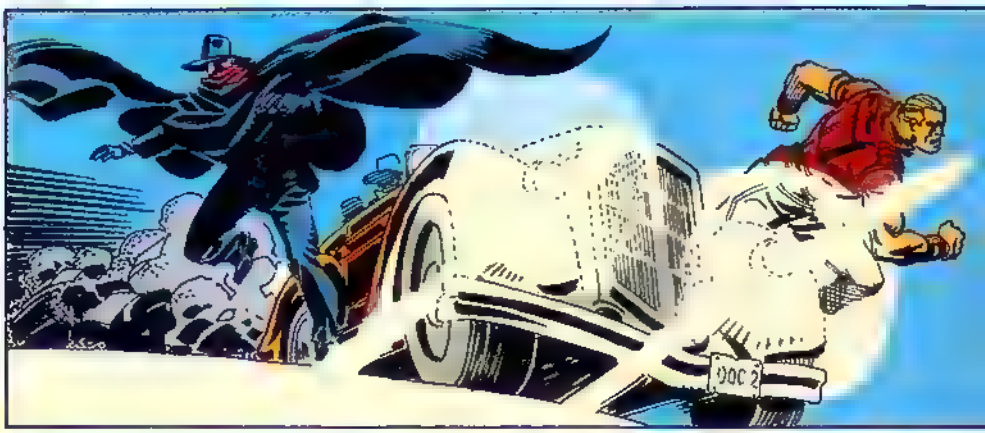
OH, PRAISE GOD THAT YOU MEN WERE ABLE TO ESCAPE THAT HORRIBLE MAN AND BRING THIS WARNING!
IF THE TRUTH BE TOLD, YOU SHOULD THANK COMPTON MOORE'S ARMED GUARDS...

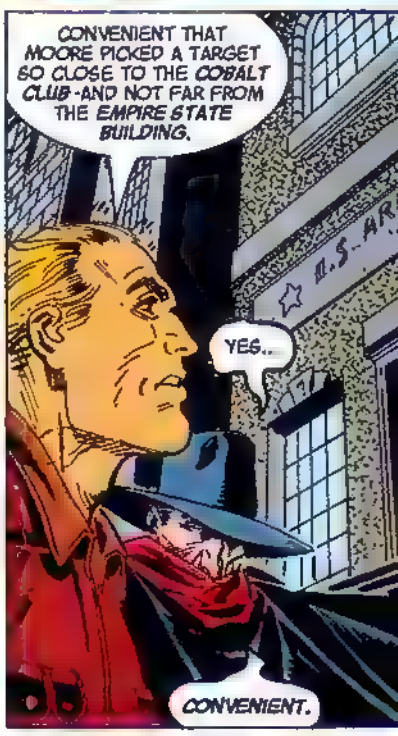
...IF THEY'D BEEN ABLE TO *SHOOT* STRAIGHT, WE'D NEVER HAVE GOTTEN HERE.

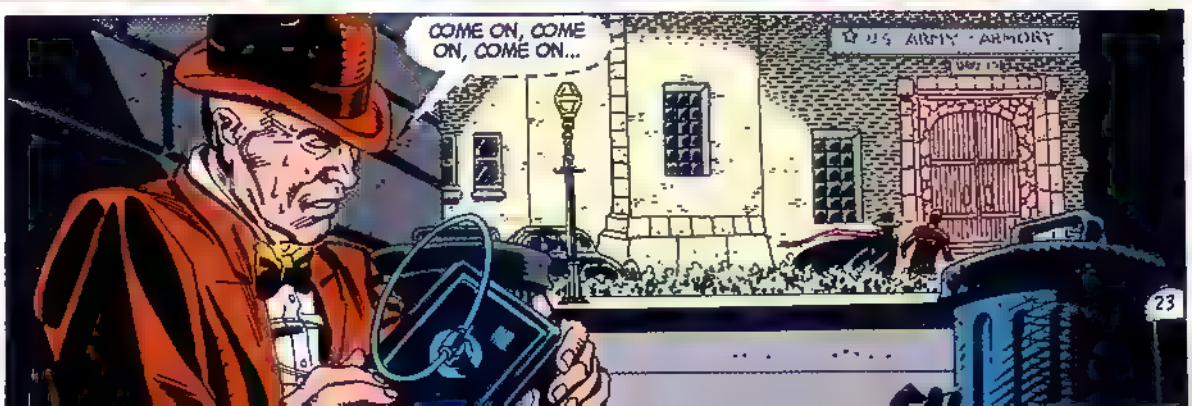
HOW'S OUR AIM, MR. HELLER?
PERFECT, MR. FODDER...

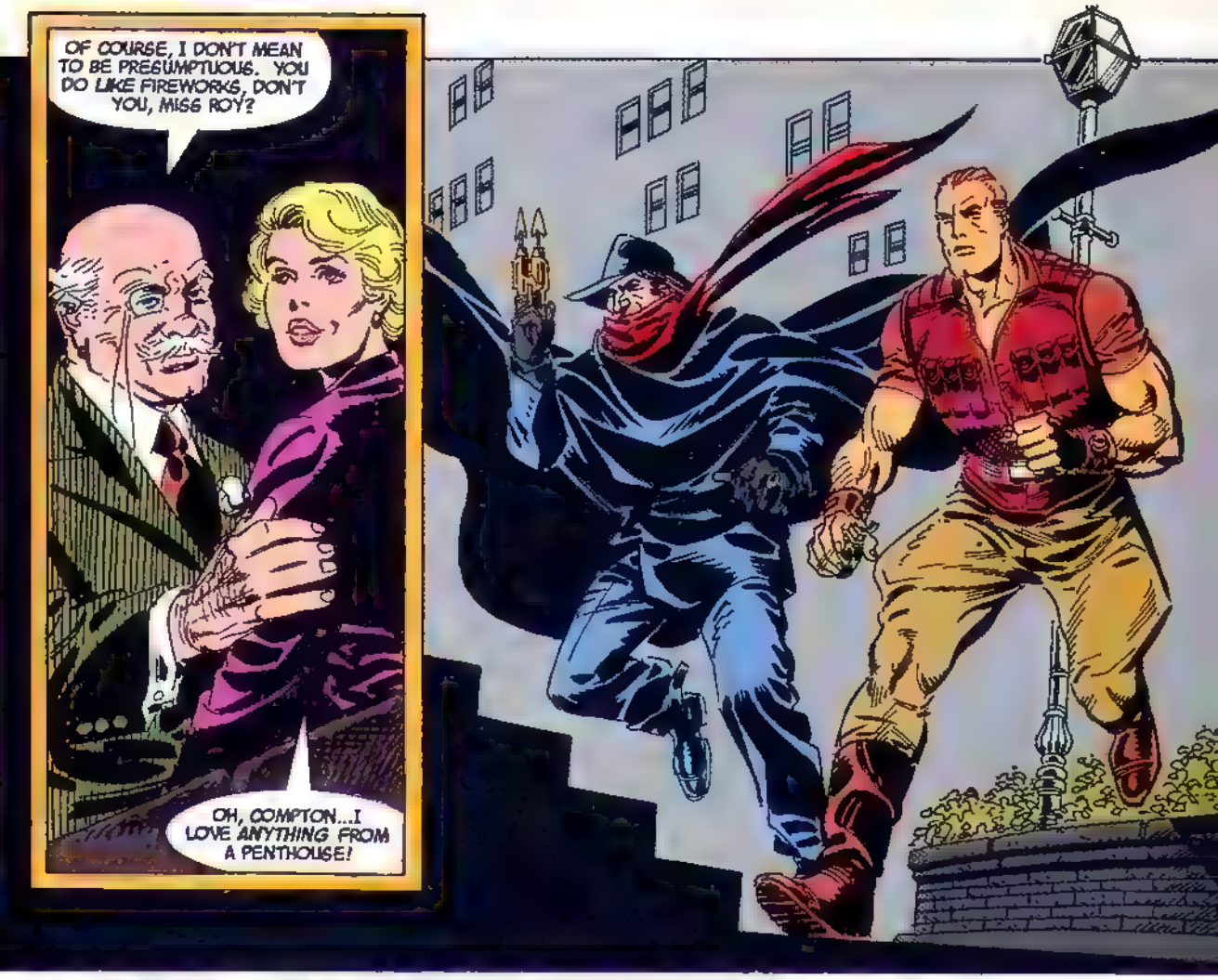

"...JUST PERFECT."

THERE, DEAR... THE LARGE, BLOCKISH BUILDING. JUST KEEP YOUR EYE ON IT. .

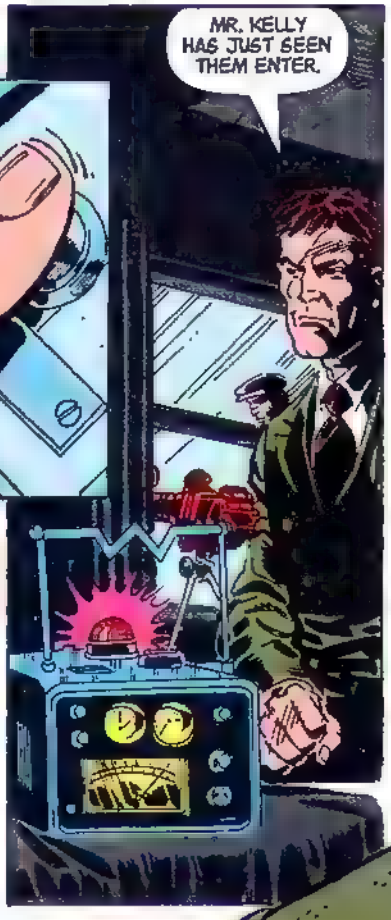



CONVENIENT THAT MOORE PICKED A TARGET SO CLOSE TO THE COBALT CLUB-AND NOT FAR FROM THE EMPIRE STATE BUILDING.
YES...
CONVENIENT.


COME ON, COME ON, COME ON...
U.S. ARMY · ARMORY


OF COURSE, I DON'T MEAN TO BE PRESUMPTUOUS. YOU DO LIKE FIREWORKS, DON'T YOU, MISS ROY?
OH, COMPTON...I LOVE ANYTHING FROM A PENTHOUSE!

OKAY-- THAT'S CLOSE ENOUGH--


MR. KELLY HAS JUST SEEN THEM ENTER.

FIRE NOW.

To be concluded in
DOC SAVAGE # 18

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L-5275

Dear Shadow-folk,

I have thoroughly enjoyed your revival of the Shadow and the first, exciting storyline you have chosen to tell. I can barely endure the suspense awaiting the conclusion of this mystery next issue. Keep up the great work.

Other than the previous SHADOW comic, I am not overly familiar with the character. I was only four when the first DC version appeared and my parents, born in the early forties, are not overly aware of the radio and pulp magazine incarnations. Nonetheless, you have made me a true Shadow-phile, haunting the local used books stores for the paperback reprints of the pulp classics and tracking down cassettes of the old radio shows. I have been lucky enough to find four shows on tape, all starring Orson Welles! The original Maxwell Grant stories are great, too, exciting, mysterious and weird—just what the Shadow should be.

Having exposed myself to these small doses of the original appearances of the Dark Avenger, I can say that Gerry Jones has definitely captured the flavor and drama of the source and added touches of his own to make this uniquely his own. Great job.

Eduardo Barreto's art is also a tremendous asset to this book. His moody rendering is perfect for the period of the stories and captures the mystery of the Shadow perfectly. When I read an issue of THE SHADOW STRIKES!, I feel transported into an old Warner Bros. film of the thirties. That's how good the creators are at their jobs.

I must also mention the great job that Anthony Tollin is doing on the coloring, it perfectly complements the fine art. Does Anthony also color the covers? The all-red, issue two cover was particularly striking.

I eagerly look forward to your continued success with this terrific title. Keep surprising and exciting us!

Derek Lattyak
Lima, Ohio

We're glad that we've encouraged you to seek out the early, seminal appearances of the Shadow, Derek; there's a lot of great enjoyment there. Keep looking, you should be able to find more old radio cassettes through nostalgia shops and mail-order services. The pulp reprints may be a little harder to find, but are worth seeking out as well. Incidentally, Maxwell Grant was the pen name of the Shadow's creator, Walter Gibson, an amazingly prolific pulp author. Gibson wrote the bulk of the Shadow novels (which were issued twice monthly during its hey-day!), occasionally replaced by writers Ted Tinsley and Bruce Sterling.

Thanks for the kind words. Stick around, we'll try to keep surprising.

By the way, Anthony Tollin does indeed color our covers and does a great job on them, to be sure.

*****

Hey, guys,

Re: THE SHADOW STRIKES! #3, a.k.a. "Ghosts"

Now, *this* is the type of treatment that the mystique that *is* the Shadow so richly deserves.

Kudos to everyone involved, from Gerard Jones straight down to Brian Augustyn, for their excellent contributions. A special tip of the hat to Denys Cowan for his stunning pin-up.

Speaking of pin ups, I'd love to see interpretations from such folks as Tim Truman, J.K. Snyder, Tim Vigil and a host of others. How 'bout it?

Elvis Orten
Dawson Springs, KY

I'd love to see a pin-up from someone like Truman or Snyder, Elv, we'll just have to see if those gentlemen have room in their schedules to deliver. I remain interested in any suggestions for future pin-up artists. Send in your nominations.

*****

Dear Shadow agents,

Re: THE SHADOW STRIKES! #3

Gerard Jones wasn't kidding around in his text section. This story speaks for itself. I can't wait for the conclusion. Another perfect 10!!

I anxiously await the "dream team-up" of the Shadow and Doc Savage. I know from your first SHADOW series that the Shadow met Kenneth Robeson's other creation, the Avenger, so this is a natural. Speaking of JUSTICE INC.'s star, I'd like to see him meet up with the Shadow again sometime. I have enough faith in Gerard to know that he'd craft another winner.

Waiting for Shiwan Khan...

Jacob Gilbert
Troy, NY

I hope you're enjoying the big Shadow/Doc Savage crossover, Jake. Whether the Dark Avenger will meet up with the man of a million faces remains to be seen. Reader acclaim could change our minds, though, so... Oh, and for the record, Kenneth Robeson was just a "house" or pen name used by many Street and Smith pulp writers of the time. Doc Savage and his crew were the brain-children of Lester Dent and The Avenger was written by Paul Ernst, another prolific pulp scribe.

As for Shiwan Khan, wait no longer than issue eight. That's when Gerry and Ed begin a three-part story chronicling the first meeting between these two deadly enemies. Set in Gerry's home town of San Francisco, this tale promises to be another perfect 10. But don't take my word for it...

*****

Dear Brian, Gerry, Eduardo, David, and Anthony,

Every issue of THE SHADOW STRIKES! has been better than the previous one. This is the definitive Shadow. You include enough of the Shadow's background to keep die-hard fans happy and add in healthy helpings of historical context to keep the stories compelling and fresh. Congratulations to everyone involved for producing the first comic in quite some time that I have trouble waiting for. It's that good.

Keep up the amazing work and make sure that the book keeps coming out so that I don't go crazy waiting for it.

Mark Bevers
Colorado Springs, CO

*****

Dear Editor,

THE SHADOW STRIKES! #3 dispensed with the history lesson set ups and gave us what I expect to see in a SHADOW comic: a manhunter standing in frightening, stock-still poses—the scarf apparently magically glued to his face. Now the Shadow is on the prowl and the advantage is his. The poses were great and so was Margo's party dress.

If memory serves me, Rasputin was only 44 when he was assassinated in 1916, so he would be 64 when the story takes place, twenty years later. Not exactly doddering. So it seems strange that he'd be in need of a life-preserving elixir. After all that build-up, it turns out that he isn't even his own boss this trip around.

Anastasia turns out to have a streak of ingratitude toward the man who is risk-

ing all to keep her alive, which is a nice, unexpected touch. She still has the snootiness of royalty, most writers would have had historical events cure her of that.

Pages 3 and 4, now, *that* is the Shadow!

Charles D. Brown
Brentwood, NY

Quite despite his age, Charles, Rasputin had apparently survived one of the more thorough assassination attempts, so you might guess that he'd need a little pick-me up every now and then. The fact is that the elixir was really more of a psychological ploy that Anastasia used to keep the upper hand on the addicted and truly mad Monk. Thanks for checking in, Charles.

* * * * *

That's it for now. Join us next issue as the Shadow moves to cancel an unauthorized radio show based on his exploits, only to find himself teamed with the young genius-writer-director-star responsible for the broadcast Mystery on the air and the clash of giant egos, all here next issue. Don't miss it!

Till then, remember, The Shadow Knows.

—Brian

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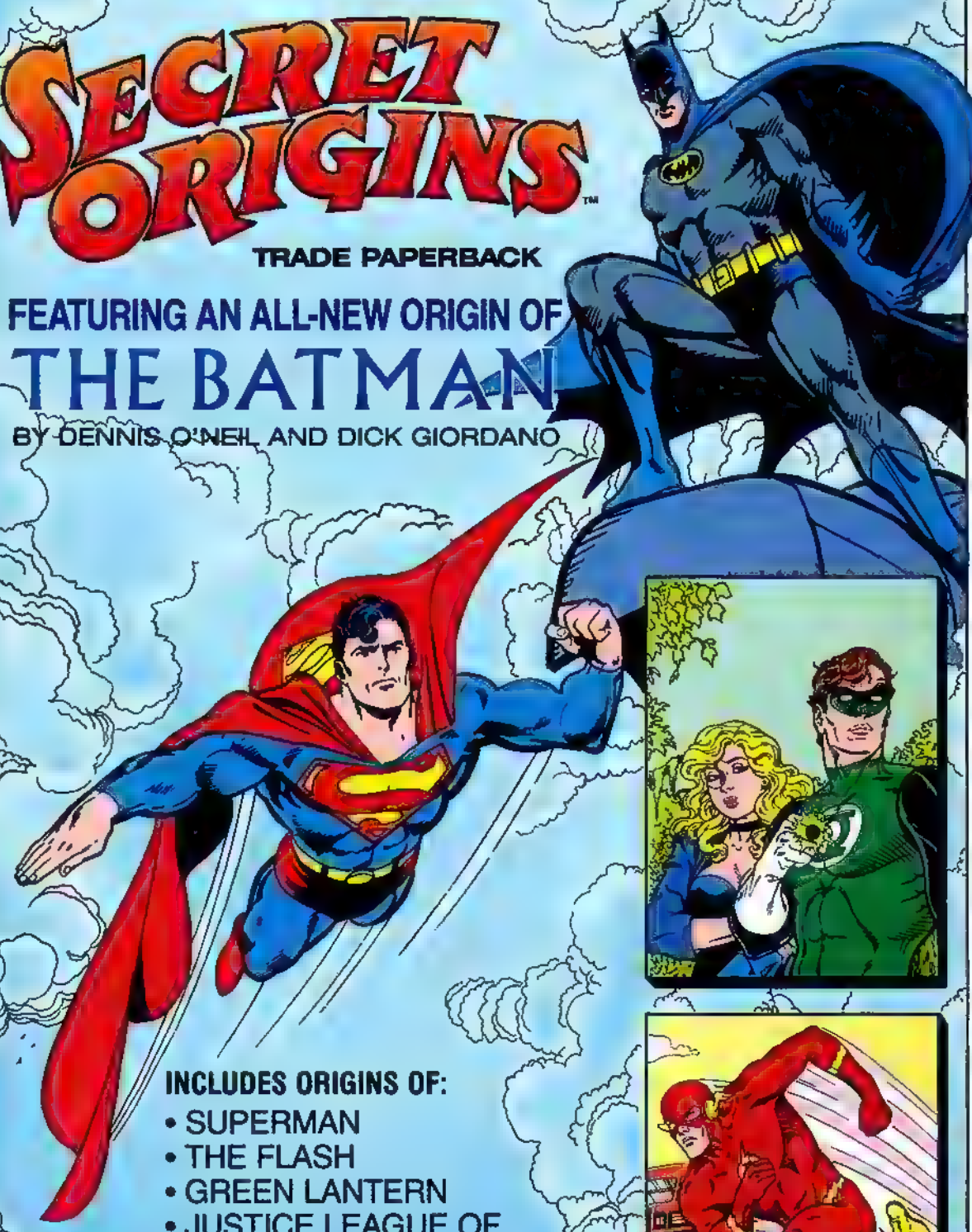

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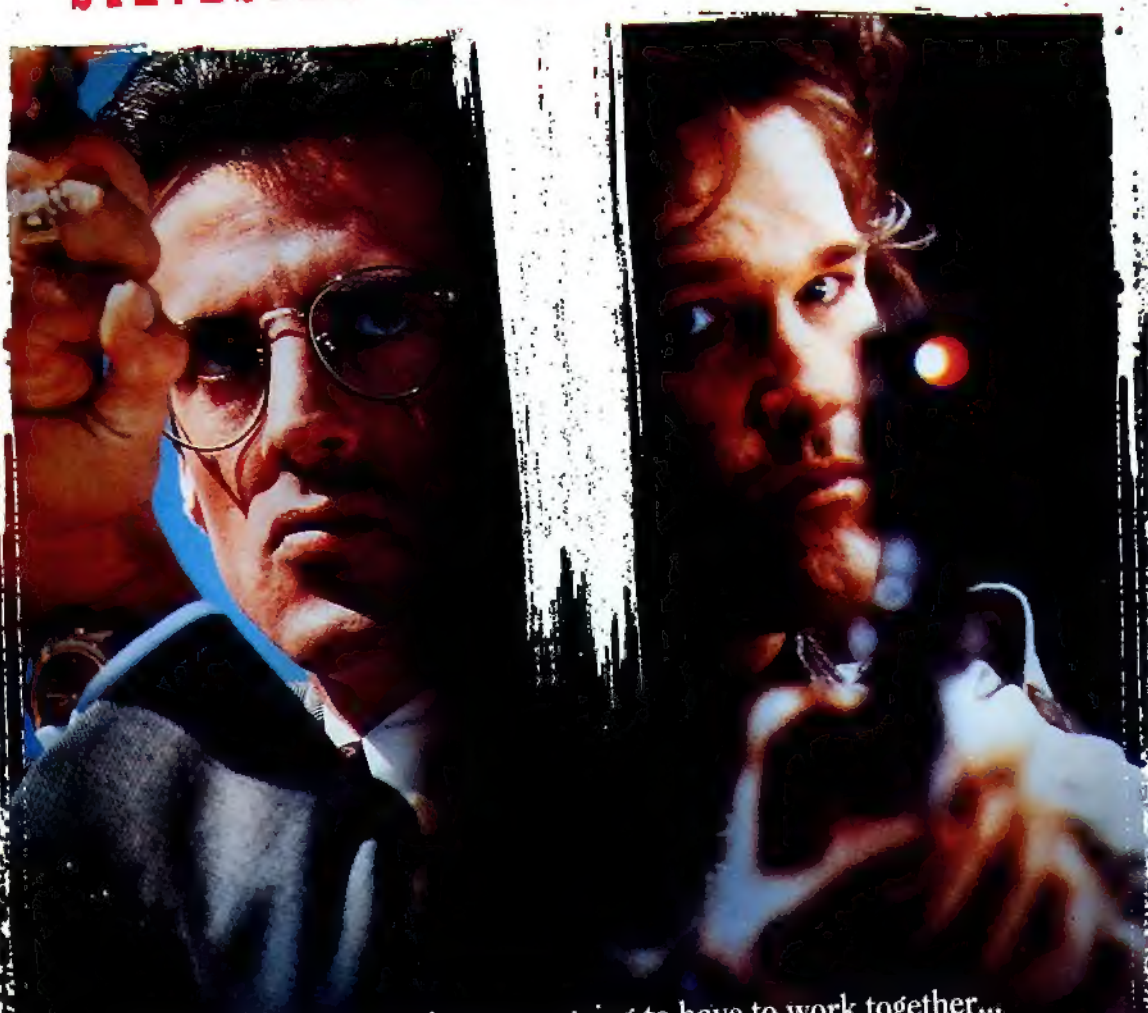

Two of L.A.'s top rival cops are going to have to work together...

Even if it kills them.

Tango & Cash

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